

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel claim 1 (claims 2-31 being cancelled prior to the calculation of any claim fees) and add new claims 32-58 as follows:

Claims 1 - 31 (Cancelled).

32. (New) An optical component comprising at least two layers, one layer being a structured retarder and the other layer being a polarizer, wherein the polarizer is a circular polarizer.

33. (New) An optical component according to Claim 32, wherein the retarder is structured by a structure of the optical delay.

34. (New) An optical component according to Claim 32, wherein the retarder is structured by having at least two regions with different optical axis.

35. (New) An optical component according to Claim 32, 33 or 34, wherein the retarder comprises an anisotropic layer comprising cross-linked liquid crystal monomers.

36. (New) An optical component according to Claim 32, wherein two circular polarizers are arranged one above the other, one of which rotates to the left and the other of which rotates to the right.

37. (New) An optical component according to Claim 32, wherein for the circular polarizer a cholesteric layer is used.

38. (New) An optical component according to Claim 36, wherein for the circular polarizers cholesteric layers are used.

39. (New) An optical component according to Claim 38, wherein the two cholesteric layers, one of which rotates to the left and the other of which rotates to the right, have reflection bands with maxima which lie in different wavelength ranges.

40. (New) An optical component according to Claim 37, further comprising a linear polarizer.

41. (New) An optical component according to Claim 38, further comprising a linear polarizer.

42. (New) An optical component according to Claim 40, characterized in that the cholesteric layer and the structured retarder are on the same side of the linear polarizer.

43. (New) An optical component according to Claim 41, characterized in that the cholesteric layer and the structured retarder are on the same side of the linear polarizer.

44. (New) An optical component according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polarizer is in contact with the cholesteric layer.

45. (New) An optical component according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polarizer is in contact with the structured retarder.

46. (New) An optical component according to Claim 40, wherein the linear polarizer is arranged on a substrate, the cholesteric layer is in contact with the linear polarizer, and an orientation layer is placed on the cholesteric layer; and further wherein an optically anisotropic layer of cross-linked liquid crystal monomers, which forms regions with different molecular orientations, is placed on the orientation layer.

47. (New) An element for protection against forgery or copying, including an optical component according to Claim 32 and an external linear or circular polarizer for analyzing encoded information.

48. (New) A device for protection against forgery or copying, characterized in that an element according to Claim 47 and a linear or circular polarizer are arranged on the same substrate.

49. (New) An optical component comprising an optically anisotropic layer which is formed by liquid-crystal molecules, wherein the optically anisotropic layer contains fluorescent molecules.

50. (New) An optical component according to Claim 49, wherein the optically anisotropic layer has at least two regions with different optical axes.

51. (New) An element for protection against forgery or copying comprising an optical component comprising an optically anisotropic layer which is formed by liquid-crystal molecules, wherein the optically anisotropic layer contains fluorescent molecules.

52. (New) An optical component, containing a birefringent liquid-crystal layer which has at least two regions with different optical axes, wherein an optical delay of the liquid-crystal layer in the individual regions depends differently on an angle of observation.

53. (New) An optical component according to Claim 52, wherein a color of the element on observation through a polarizer differs locally.

54. (New) An optical component according to Claim 52, characterized in that it is biaxial.

55. (New) An optical component according to claim 54, wherein the birefringent liquid-crystal layer is biaxial.

56. (New) An element for protection against forgery or copying comprising an optical component comprising a birefringent liquid-crystal layer which has at least

two regions with different optical axes, wherein an optical delay of the liquid-crystal layer in the individual regions depends differently on an angle of observation.

57. (New) An element for protection against forgery or copying, being arranged on a substrate and comprising an optical anisotropic layer which has at least two regions with different optical axes, wherein the substrate is a reflective polarizer.

58. (New) A device for protection against forgery or copying comprising an element and an analyzer, wherein the analyzer and the element are arranged on a single substrate.